

6-trait writing

A brief overview

Ideas and Content

- ▶ What you are actually writing about.
 - ▶ Stay focused, stay on topic.
 - ▶ Write to your thesis statement.
 - ▶ Use evidence (concrete details)
 - ▶ Don't summarize
 - ▶ Give original thoughts and opinions

Voice

- ▶ The way your essay sounds
 - ▶ Know your audience
 - ▶ Be appropriate for your topic
 - ▶ Know your purpose
 - ▶ Persuade
 - ▶ Inform
 - ▶ Entertain

Organization

- ▶ The logical order of your essay
 - ▶ The key word is **logical**
 - ▶ Order of sentences in a paragraph
 - ▶ Order of paragraphs in an essay
 - ▶ Intro and conclusion:
 - ▶ Paragraphs
 - ▶ Sentences
 - ▶ Transition words

Word Choice

- ▶ The words you choose to use in your essay
 - ▶ Affects voice
 - ▶ Don't be repetitive
 - ▶ Don't try to "sound intelligent"
 - ▶ Be efficient, not wordy
 - ▶ Think about the connotation of the word
 - ▶ Use appropriate transitions

Sentence Fluency

- ▶ The flow of your sentences in your essay.
 - ▶ Use variety
 - ▶ Simple
 - ▶ Compound
 - ▶ Complex
 - ▶ Vary the way sentences begin
 - ▶ Vary sentence structures
 - ▶ Avoid:
 - ▶ Fragments
 - ▶ Incompletes
 - ▶ Run-ons
 - ▶ Comma Splices

Conventions

- ▶ Grammar, spelling and punctuation.
 - ▶ Check your spelling, especially names
 - ▶ Read aloud to catch mistakes
 - ▶ Double check punctuation marks
 - ▶ Extraneous
 - ▶ Missing

6-trait rubric

- ▶ 1-6
 - ▶ 6 is high
 - ▶ 1 is low
- ▶ Give a score of 1-6 for each trait
 - ▶ Average the six scores for the overall score

Scoring Assignment

- ▶ Pair up with someone in your group (groups of three can all work together).
- ▶ Together, read the essay
- ▶ One sheet of paper (put both your names on it), score the essay for each trait
 - ▶ Write a sentence explaining your score
- ▶ Average the score to get the overall score
- ▶ Turn in
